EVACUATION OF YORKTOWN.

Important Despatches from General McClellan.

Precipitate Flight of the Rebel Army.

One Hundred Thousand Rebels on the Run.

The Rear Guard of the Enemy Overtaken by Our Forces.

Cavalry and Artillery Engagement Near Williamsburg.

The Rebels Driven from Their Position and Twenty-five Prisoners Taken,

PROBABLE CAPTURE OF THE TOWN.

Interesting Accounts from Our Special Correspondents.

as of the Enemy Previous to the Evacuation.

ng the Stars and Stripes on the Historic Ground.

DEVENTY-ONE HEAVY CANNON CAPTURED

de Guns from the Merrimac Mounted

se Strength of the Rebel Fortifications.

ter Demoralization of the Rebel Army.

DARBAROUS CONDUCT OF THE ENEMY.

Arrangements of the Rebels to Blow Up the Works.

B SCHEATIFIC PLANS OF GEN. M'CLELLAN.

Brilliant Achievement of the Union Arms.

MAPORTANCE OF THE UNION SUCCESSES.

Important Movements of the French Minister.

MERCHER'S ARRIVAL AT YORKTOWN &c.,

Bespatches from General McClellan. HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, }

BOTH M. STARTON, Secretary of War :ion just made shows that the rebels aban their works at Yorktown two three-inch rifled m, two four-and-s-half-inch rifled cannon, sixteen mbiads, four nine-inch Dahlgrens, one tenah solumbled, one ten inch morter and one eight-inch bewitter, with carriages and implements com to, each piece supplied with seventy-siz rounds of n. On the ramparts there are also four nes, which have not yet been examined. This not include the guns left at Gloucester Point, and

G. B. MCCLELLAN, Major General.

Неардиантеня, Анит ор тин Ротомас, Мау 4—7 Р. М.

B. Ben. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War:-Our cavalry and horse artillery came up with the enemy's rear guard in their intrenchments about two miles

A brink fight ensued. Just as my aid left, Smith's division of infantry arrived on the ground, and I prese carried the works, though I have not yet heard.

The enemy's rear is strong; but I have force enough an there to answer all purposes.

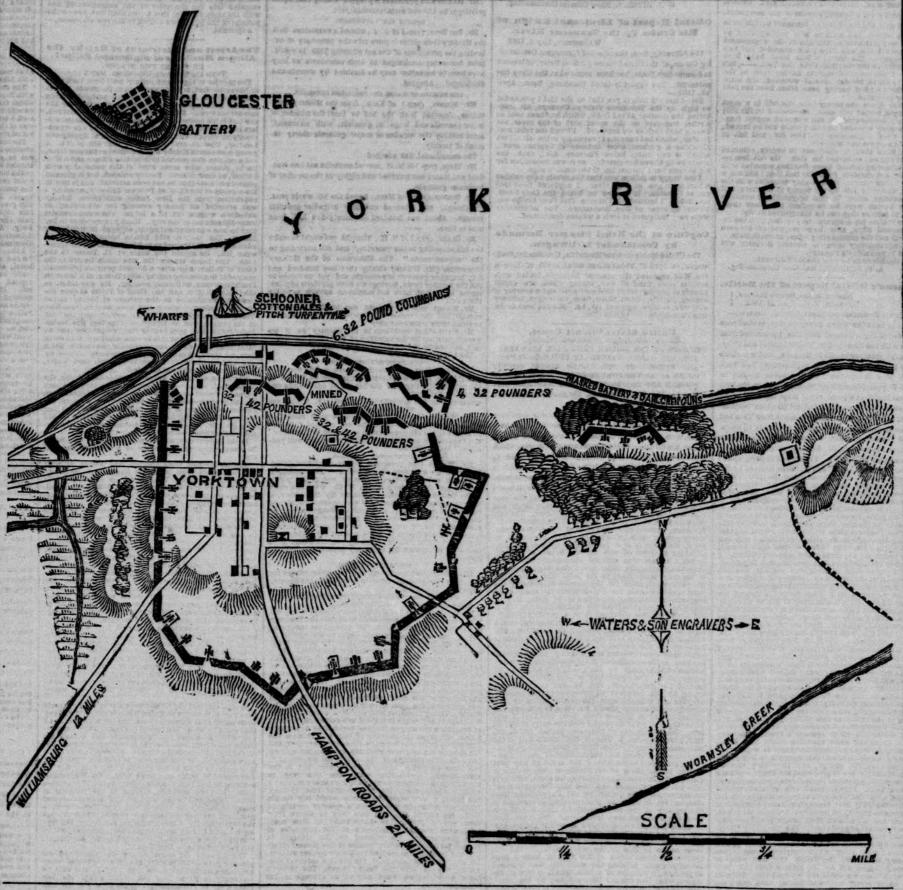
We have thus far taken seventy-one heavy guns, large All along the lines their works prove to have been mos,

formidable, and I am now fully ratisfied of the correct men of the course I have pursued.

The success is brilliant, and you may rest assured that to effects will be of the greatest importance.

There shall be no delay in following up the rebels. the rebell have been gullty of the most murderous REBEL DEFENCES AT YORKTOWN.

Character The Formidable of the Rebel Fortifications



ned works, near wells and springs, and near flag.

or five killed, and perhane a doven wounded. I shall make the prisoners remove them at their own peril. G. B. McCLELLAN,

Major General Despatch from Colonel Astor. The following despatch from Colonel Astor was yesterday received in this city by Mr. Perit, President of the

Chamber of Commerce:-

The rebels evacuated this place at four o'clock this morning, keeping up a brisk cannonade to the last mo-ment, leaving all their heavy guns, eighty in number, with their ammunition; also large amounts of material of war of every kind, abandoned, burned or sunk.

Day's, Johnston and Lee were present, uniting in opin-ion that McClellan's disposition of his forces and artillery had made the place untenable. Magrader furiously and publicly urged fight. The fortifications are very extensive and formidable, and their force had been large. Au assault upon them before bembarding would have pre-

duced great carnage, and might have failed.

Our gunboat flotilla has passed up the river, followed by large bodies of troops in transports; also several columns are moving rapidly along York river. We hope to come up with them before they can reach West Point Our army is in the finest condition and best spirits;

the rebel army much demoralized. J. J. ASTOR, Col. and A. D.C.

Cavalry and Artillery Engagement Near Williamsburg. HEADQUARTERS, NEAR WILLIAMSSURG May 4—Evening.

The advance of the forces, under command of General Stoneman, with the view of ascertaining the position of the enemy, reached this place, two and a half miles from Williamaburg, about two o'clock this afternoon, on the road from Yorktown. The country, in most instances, was laid desolate, and but few of the houses

of Williamsburg and the enemy's earthworks. At the time no guns were visible on the enemy's works, but a regiment of cavalry could be seen approaching, about one mile off, in line of battle.

Captain Gibbon's reserve battery was then ordered to the front to open on the enemy's approaching cavalry, while a portion of the Sixth cavalry were deployed as lahers to the right and left. The fire from the battery was very effective on the enemy's cavalry, but never changed their course.

About two hundred yards to the right of Gibboni battery was an earthwork, which had all the appearance of being desorted, when all of a sudden our troops were opened upon by a deadly fire from artillery posted behind the works. At the same time the rebel cavalry continued advancing until they were checked by a charge made by a portion of the First and Sixth eavalry, which was performed in a most admirable manner. In more matances than one it was a hand to hand encounter with the enemy; but, strange to relate, none of our men were made prisoners, while we captured about twenty-five o, the enemy, among whom is Captain Frank Lee, of the Third Florida infantry. Captain Gibbons had fourteen horses killed, Lieutenant

De Welf was mortally wounded. One gun was lost by sticking fast in the mud. Lieutenant Benton, of the First cavalry, and ten men of the same regiment, were wounded. Lieutenant McClellan, of the Sixth cavalry. was slightly wounded, as were also twelve others. Lieutenant Colonel Kness, of the First cavalry, had his horse eyes ander bim Afile entacted to 6 paid to beny comme

Private Noble (Irish), of Major Barker's McCie oragoons, had his horse killed and was severely wounded in the leg by the explosion of a torpedo, while passing through Yorktown.

The rebel cavalry was forced by our men their position, but the want of infantry prevented our the troops fell back about two hundred yards to await the

General Hancock's brigade soon after arrived, but it was deemed advisable to defer further operations until

-morrow.

We have information that the enemy are still on the retreat beyond Williamsburg.

The rear guard of the enemy is very strong, as was

Sketch of General Stoneman. Brigadier General and Acting Major General George Stoneman is a native and citizen of New York, and was appointed a castet of West Point from that State in the year 1842. He graduated on the 30th of June, 1846, standing No. 33 in his class, in which there were fifty nine members. Among his classmates are the names of Major General G. B. McClellan, Acting Major Generals J. G. Foster, Jesse L. Reno, D. N. Couch, T. Seymour and others; Brigadier Generals S. D. Sturgis, Jas. Oakes I. N. Palmer and others, in the Union army, and some few who have joined the rebel cause. On the 1st of July 1846, he was promoted Brovet Second Lieutenant of the First dragoous, and on the 12th of July, 1847, received his commission of full second lieutenant of that regiment. In July, 1854, he was promoted to a first lieu tenancy, and, in January, 1855, was appointed aid to Major Gen. Wool, then chief of the Eastern Department, and in the following March was promoted to a captaincy of the Second cavalry. In 1850 he held the captaincy of Company E of that regiment, ranking No. 8 in the list of United States cavalry captains. He held the ame position in 1860, and in 1861 ranked No. 7 in the list of the captains of the cavalry in consequence of the promotion of Joseph E. Johnston (now a rebel) to a brigadier generalship. On the 9th of May, 1861, he was promoted to be a major of the Second (now Fourth) United States cavalry, and on the 18th of August, 1861, was promoted a Brigadier General of Volunteers and ncy, and, in January, 1855, was appointed aid to has since been made an Acting Major General, with the command of the whole of the cavalry forces of the Army of the Potomac. He outranks General Smith only by being first named on the army roll, and not by any difference in the date of his con

The Latest News from the Army. NEAR WILLIAMSBURG, May 5-A. M.

It commenced raining about two o'clock this morn and has continued heavily up to this time, There is no news from Williamsburg, as it is yet to

early in the morning to hear. We will occupy Williamsburg early this morning. From there our course will depend upon that taken

PARTICULARS OF THE EVACUATION. Special Correspondence of the New York

This morning, soon after six o'clock, Brigadier General Jameson, having learned that the enemy had evacoated Yorktown, went forward with detachments from different regiments and occupied the described earthworks. The tions amid the unbounded enthusiasm of our soldiers. The most reliable information I have been enabled to receive shows that the evacuation was commenced on Thursday last. The last of the rebel force, consisting of Seneral Longstreet's brigade, left the works about one 'clock this morning. DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE ENEMY DURING THE EVA-

the time. It was exceedingly difficult to observe any of the enemy's movements, by reason of the hazy condi. which was universally believed, from what had been said concerning it, to be all but abso-lutely impregnable. On Wednesday last there was firing from different directions going on all day. The enemy threw a number of his largest shot and shell over from the immense fortification which overlooks the river. Atthough those missiles flew all around us, some falling in the camps and some passing over them, there were only a few slight casualties among our men. After the rain had commenced to fall in the afternoon the firing was increased. Up to this time it was principally confive one hundred-pounder Parrott guns and one two hundred-pounder, situated near the river, had returned the brisk fire of the enemy. Thus there had been quite a cannonade. Finding that our guns were proving so effective, several of these tremensous shells having burst over the fortifications, and others, as I have perceived this morning, having kneeked away portions of the parapet, and dismounted one of the heaviest guns, the enemy concluded to relax his ciforts in that direction and turn his attention to another quarer. Then, later in the afternoon, between three and four o'clock, we heard cannonading to our left, and it was evident that it was the intention of the enemy, if possible, to divert our attention for the time being from his formidable post to the right.

On Thursday, the 1st of May, the enemy sent forward small detachment of infantry, the Mississippi Rifles, to keep up appearances and create the impression that he intended to fight, while subsequent events have shown us that he was afraid to fight, and had determined to silentthat he was arraid to hight, and had determined to silently evacuate. Everything was remarkably quiet during
the morning; but both sides resumed their artillery
practice in the afternoon. Several of the shells from
Yorktewn burst in some of our encampments. A promise of fine weather was blighted later in the day, when
the sky clouded over deeper than ever. There was an

occasional shot fired during the night.

The morning of Friday, May 2, was dull and dreary, as The morning of Friday, May 2, was dull and dreary, as several of the provious mornings had been. Soon, however, a gentle breeze arose, the sombre covering of clouds parted like curtains drawn aside, revealing a clear, beautiful sky. From early in the morning for several hours, the enemy kept up a rather regular and constant fire from his heavy guns, as before. Many shots were sent from the left of the fortifications surrounding the town itself, and as our men were busily engaged in running the parallel on our extreme right, near the river. nion the parallel on our extreme right, near the river, is was supposed that he had brought a number of field pieces to a favorable position outside his works, and was endeavoring to enfillade our parallel Our big battery, number one, near the bank of the river returned the fire, and made some splendid shots, a num-ber of the shells having been seen to burst over the enemy's intrenchments. Still he kept up the cannonale with a vigor which seemed to say that when the siege should be opened he was fully determined to make a desperate resistance. For hours the air resounded with the tremendous reports of heavy guas. Sometimes the report of one cannon and of the burging shell from another would be heard simultaneously. About noon the cannonading was louder and more rapid than on any day since the arrival of our army before the town. The unusually loud reports from the rebel guns created the impression among some that the enemy has recently been mounting cannon of larger calibre than he had mounted there heretofore. Some of the shells went clear over General McClellan's headquarters.
This was the first time that any rebel missiles had come so great a distance. Quite a number of the fuse shells burst very high in the air, and large wreaths of smoke, created by the bursting, ascended towards the gons, the rebels were putting into those which they had enormous charges of powder. One of their larges guns burst with a tremendous noise. This sharp engage

an hour, when the firing became less frequent as the sun with ing of troops and the active preparations for the siege. There had been so much firing during the day from the tained the precise position of our camps and had begun at last to strive to shell us out. Hence, in the evening an order was promulgated to the effect that during the pending operations small fires only would be permitted during the day, and those must be extinguished at dark, from which time until daybreak no more fires would be

permitted.
CONTINUATION OF THE CANNONADE EFFECT OF OUR Very early on Saturday morning, an hour or more before dawn, the enemy opened a sharp and heavy fire, rousing

many of our soldiers from their slumbers. When day light appoired a soft have hung over the atmosphere; but by eight o'clock the weather began to clear off, and the remainder of the day was warm and beautiful. General Jameson was general of the trenches that day. One of stead were accepted. Hence I had an excellent opports. nity to see the rebel fortifications, to learn the first facts concerning their evacuation, and to witness their subse quent occupation by our troops. That Saturday was one of the most interesting days we had had on the right of our line since the commencement of the preparations for the siege. Large details from many of the regiments in all several thousand men—were as usual working on our first parallel, which was nearly finished, and on new batteries and redoubts which were in process of con-struction. The rich crimson uniforms of the Fifth New York Zonaves formed a pleasing contrast to the darker uniforms of our other volunteers. To see them all at work was a very picturesque sight. The rebels, according to their custom, kept rather quiet during a few of the morning hours, little more than an occasional shot being fired; but in the afternoon they opened fire and blazed away as usual. We wanted to get the best and blazed away as usual. We wanted to get the best possible range of the enemy's works, both at Yorktown and over the river at Gloucester, before beginning a regu-lar bombardment; so we replied with those big rifled gune. The earth beneath fairly trombled at each dis-charge. The sequel has disclosed the interesting fact that ever since we opened with that battery, at each dis-charge the rebels trembled too. The sound of the shot and, shell from those parrott guns, as they whistled through the air, was at once fearful and beauti-ful. It seems strange to write down such a sound "beautiful," when each revelution of the projectile is suggestive of destruction and death; but, nevertheless, the language I have used gives a correct idea of the sound. The shot which does the most execution—which diemounts a gun or kills a crowd of men—is instinctively dismounts a gun or kills a crowd of men-si instinctively styled a "beautful" one. Any artillerist will talk in the most philosophical manner of the beauty of his guns, projecties or slots. At the engagement near Lee's Mill, on the left of our line, a few weeks ago, it will be remembered that a shot from the enemy knocked down seven out of the ten men who were serving one of our guns, killing three and wounding four. Captain Mott, whose bravery is as unquestioned as his tenderness of heart, could not restrain his admiration of the "splendid" manner in which the rebels served their artillery. His words which the rebels served their artillery. His words were, "It was a beautiful shot; but it killed and wounded some of the bravest and best men I had under my command." I mention this in order to explain why I have called the singing of the shell in the air a beautiful sound. During a greater pertion of the day, and until after midnight, the rebels continued firing, principally from their largest fort, where their heaviest guns are mounted. Shells were bursting near where our men were working and in our camps further to the rear; but when the smoke or the first flash of the discharge is seen, soldbers appear to have a convenient way of getting under cover; so that, after all the firing by the enemy, very few of our men were injured. Our big pattery fired teleurely, frequent changes in the

ds of our troops in the trenches. The bur

ING RIVLE PITS BEFORE THE RESER own by numbers, and the regular redoubts be me of the Revolutionary rifle plts, or, perhaps more pro at from one of his own regiments, the Sixty-third ear the Yorktown road, skirmishers were thrown out the right and another to the left were chosen for the were lying down a few feet in front of them. All this manner. We could hear the rebel artillery officers as distinctly as though they were not more than a dozen yards from us, giving the command, "One, two, three, free" It was then, when the shells came so close, that we thought for a moment we had been discovered, and that they were firing at us; but the sequel shows that the rebels were too busy themselves to be on my particular lookout for us, and that they were not over careful about taking aim. However, we did not know en were still confronting us. And after they had fired their last gun we could still see their lingering lighte upon the parapets, though they themselves had gone. Our rifle pits were finished shortly after the time the nemy had completed the evacuat

PIRST INTRILIGENCE OF THE EVACUATION. further to the left, and said that the enemy was evaco ating Yorktown. Just at the first faint light of early outer pickets with a flag of truce. They were received by Colonel Black. At first it was supposed that they were sent from Yorktown officially—perhaps with a prowere sent from Yorktown officiallypoint of the peninsula, and which the rebels want burned down. These men had been forced into the r service, and they expressed their great delight at the event which enabled them to escape from such a distante

This event was the complete evacuation of Yorktown, actually frightened at our approach, gade which had the honor of our protected from the fire of their heavy guns, few shells at them, the rebels The precise language of one he made, was this - 'If you had gone over there that night you could have carried everything." of their guns on Friday, which we saw burst on selves, and added that they had burst about half a d altogether. Some of them I have since seen lying in the

THE OCCUPATION BY THE UNION TROOPS. A few hours previous to this time our telegraph had been carried so far to the front as the old gristmid which has been used as the headquarters of the ge of the trenches. General Jameson immediately grained to General Fitz John Porter, director siege, the intelligence which these deserters brought siege, the intelligence which these deserters prought concerning the evacuation. He soon received a reply instructing him to push forward a small force to procure authoritative information as to the truth of their assertion. He took delachments from the Sixty second Pennsylvania regiment, under Colonel Biack; the Twenty-second Ibusachusetts, the Sixty second Fennsylvania regiment, ander Colonel Black; the Twenty-second Massachusetts, under Colonel Gove, with a support of two companies of the First Massachusetts, under Lieutenant Colonel Wells, and advanced along the border of the woods, on the commanding bluff which overlooks the river. In the morning our outposts and sentinels on the works we were constructing were astonished when they missed the accustomed rebel watchmen from the walls. Our men in the trenches evinced, if possible, as much curlosity as those who were advancing towards the enemy's fortifications. Thousands of heads appeared above the top of our parallel, and overy one manifested the deepest juterest in the seenes which were transpiring. It was only by a stern command that the General kept the men from rushing headlong, headless of all lurking danger, into the intrenchments. Very soon the detachments reached the ditch in front and began to mount the parapets. General Jameson and Colonel Black mounted first. They were closely followed by Colonel Gove, Lieutenant Crawford and Captain Hassier, of the General's staff, and the Hanain correspondent. The General jumped leaded the work, which was seen to be deserted, and preceedly it was awarming with our soldiers. The glorious emission of our nationality was raised above the the HeralD correspondent. The seneral jumpes man the work, which was seen to be deserted, and present it was awarming with our soldiers. The glorious eliem of our nationality was raised above the glorious eliem of our nationality was raised above the desert buttlements, and, as its folds were kineed by the gue breeze, the General uncovered his head and called the cheers for the good oid Stars and Stripes." feeling of profound veneration arose in the hearts of as we beheld the grand old flag waving over the desert battlements and planted once more to that histoground. You may know that we all reversently covered, and the air resounded with our obsert. To companies were placed on the parapets, and the we commenced an examination of the works. We so found a Northern gouldenan—a New Yorker—who he reluctantly occupied an important position in the relating there, who managed to secrete himself when the were going, and from whom we received valuable information relative to the mines the rebells had laid to ble up the works. up the works.

Thesefortifications around Yorktown itself—which will be spoken of in after times, not alone as the scene of any important surrender, but also, after the lapse of more than eighty years, as the scene of a grand evacuation and, of the sudden flight of the demoralized rebel army—those fortifications around Yorktown were of the most formidable character. I have positive and reliable information that ever since the battle of Big Bethel, almost a year ago, and before it, the rebels have been herd at work fortifying this whole peninsula. The work at Big Bethel, and these at Howard's bridge—to which I alluded in a previous communication, and work at Big Bethel, and there at Howard's bridge—to which I alluded in a previous communication, and which were abandoned when we marched up here a month ago—required considerable labor. From the time of the occupation of Yorktown, about a year

CONTINUED ON TENTE PAGE 2